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Berlin Admits Capture of Steinbach by the French After Fierce Bombardment Russians Claim Victory Over Germans on Bank of Bzura River—Two Turkish Companies Cut to Pieces

The capture by the French of Steinbach, a small Alsatian town near Thann, is admitted in today's statement from the Berlin war office. The advance of the French was preceded by a bombardment which the German statement describes as "overwhelming," and which enabled the French to occupy trenches near Sennheim as well as the town of Steinbach. These trenches later were recaptured, the German statement says.

Except for this fighting along the eastern end of the battle front there is little activity, the German counter attacks apparently having halted effectually the forward movement which the allies attempted last month. A few unimportant gains are chronicled to capture a village in the Meuse country failed.

The German statement makes no mention of the severe fighting in the east reported by the Russian military authorities. It says merely that the situation is unchanged, and that German attacks continue.

An official Russian statement shows that after capturing Polmov, the Germans attempted to push on to the northeast in the direction of Warsaw, about thirty miles away. This movement marked the renewal of the German offensive toward the Polish capital, after a period of comparative inactivity, but their advance in this direction is said to have been repulsed with large losses.

A remarkable night battle on the bank of the Bzura river is described in the Russian communication, which says that German forces were permitted to cross the river unmolested and then were attacked with bayonets, without the firing of a shot. It is asserted that several hundred Germans were killed and the remainder surrendered.

In the other campaigns on European battle fields no essential changes are reported. In the Transcaucasian region the Turks and Russians are engaged in fierce struggles but reports from Petrograd and Constantinople concerning the outcome are at complete variance.

Wet Weather Precludes

Operations in West

London, Jan. 4, 12:28 p. m.—Utterly irreconcilable are the claims of the contending armies in the East. In the West the unprecedented wet weather precludes operations which could give decided advantages to one side or the other.

The activities of the Turks in the Caucasus seem to be assuming an increasing importance, judging from the attention the Petrograd official communications are devoting to this region. Although not admitting that the Turks have been victorious it is conceded that they are fighting with great valor and stubbornness in the vicinity of the fortified town of Sarikamish. The Turks claim to have taken this position. Russia, however, does not admit this, and says the Turks have suffered enormous losses.

Comparing the Turkish and the Russian statements it would seem that the Turks, at the present time, are making some headway, although both sides are losing heavily in killed, wounded and prisoners, as their troops in an order and fight through the hills of the Bzura and the bitter cold of these repulsed the invaders.

Retreat of the battle of the Rivers in Poland has not yet come to an end. The Germans say they have taken Borjow, northeast of Bolomow, a strong Russian position east of Lovicz and a step nearer Warsaw. This the Russians contradict flatly, saying that the German assaults there have been repulsed with heavy losses and elsewhere they have been held at bay. Petrograd professes to see the end of the Battle of the Polish rivers and a concentration of German forces at some other strategic point in a renewed attempt to break through; but like the predictions of what this side or the other proposes to do in Belgium and France, this must be classed as a guess.

It is true that the Russians have taken another pass over the Carpathian Mountains, the invasion of Hungary in real force should, in the opinion of British observers, soon be a reality. Up to the present time detachments of Russian cavalry have crossed these mountains, but there never has been an invasion in strength.

Further developments in Albania have been hanging fire since the Italian occupation of Avlona.

Berlin Admits Capture of Steinbach By French

Berlin, Jan. 4, by wireless telegraph to London, 6:55 p. m.—Steinbach, the Alsatian town on the Heights between Thann and Sennheim, for which desperate fighting has been going on for several days, was officially admitted by the German army headquarters statement today to have been captured by the French.

The French also took possession of the Heights to the west of Sennheim but the Germans, in a counter attack, with the bayonet, succeeded in regaining the position.

The text of the communication follows: "In the western theater of the war, except for a more or less heavy artillery combat along the front, it was generally quiet."

"Only near Thann (Alsace) did the enemy show great activity. After an overwhelming bombardment of the heights to the west of Sennheim, the enemy succeeded during the evening in capturing our demolished trenches on these heights and in connection with the village of Steinbach, which we stubbornly defended and which has been frequently mentioned in our reports during the last few days. The heights were retaken during the night after a bayonet attack."

Fighting for the village of Steinbach continues.

"In the eastern theater of the war the situation is unchanged. Our attacks in Poland to the east of the Rawka River continue."

Allies Claim Further

Progress in Steinbach

Paris, Jan. 4, 2:45 p. m.—The official statement given out in Paris this afternoon shows that the artillery fighting along the front as proceeding intermittently and at some points with particular violence. There seems to have been few infantry attacks recently. The French admit failure in an effort to occupy a German position in the Meuse country. They claim however, further progress in Steinbach. The text of the communication follows:

"From the sea to the Oise the day passed in almost complete calm. The weather was rainy. There were artillery exchanges at some points of the front. In front of Noulette our heavy artillery reduced the German batteries to silence."

"On the Aisne and in Champagne the cannonading was particularly violent. Our batteries showed their superiority and brought under their fire reserve forces of the enemy. We became possessed of several points of support held by the Germans in the region of Perthes and that of Mesnil-Les-Hurlus."

"Between the Argonne and the Meuse, as well as on the Heights of the Meuse there was intermittent cannonading. An effort made yesterday morning by our troops to occupy Bourreuilles did not succeed."

"Our advance continued in the Forest of LePretre, which is to the northwest of Pont-A-Mousson."

"In upper Alsace we occupied an important height to the west of Cernay. A counter attack by the enemy was repulsed."

"In Steinbach we have taken possession of the vicinity of the church and of the cemetery."

Germans Suffer Heavy

Losses Along Bzura

Petrograd, Jan. 3.—An official communication issued tonight by the general staff of the Russian army regarding the fighting in Poland and Galicia, says: "A strong artillery combat has been fought all along the front on the left bank of the Vistula. The attempt of the Germans to gain ground in certain places in the region of the Bzura river was without success."

"On the night of Jan. 2 we discovered the passage of Germans across the Bzura in the vicinity of Kozoff and Biskoupi. Having watched the concentration of the enemy's forces one of our glorious regiments surrounded the Germans. They attacked them with the bayonet, without firing a shot, and in the hand to hand struggle which followed, killed several hundred men. The survivors saved their lives by surrendering."

"About 3 P. M., on Jan. 2, a brigade of German infantry attacked our position near Borjow, northeast of Bolimow, but the German assault was repulsed with enormous losses by the fire from several batteries and a counter attack made with the bayonet."

"Desperate fighting occurred during the night of Jan. 2, continuing until daylight northeast of Rawa, where we succeeded in dislodging the enemy from some of the trenches which they had previously taken."

"South of the Pilica river fighting took place at Metairie and Gaschak, west of Inowloz and also southeast of Malogozosk, near Volmine, where they had previously taken."

(Continued on Tenth Page.)

URGE BAN ON EXPORTS OF WAR MATERIALS

German-American Alliance and A. O. H. Favor Pending Resolutions.

CLAIM ALLIES ONLY BENEFICIARIES

House Foreign Affairs Committee Told

That the Principal Evil Growing Out of the Situation Is the Damage Being Done to Our Commerce.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Delegations from New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Baltimore, among them representatives of the German-American Alliance and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, appeared today before the house foreign affairs committee to favor pending congressional resolutions to stop exportation of war materials to the belligerents. C. J. Hexamer of Philadelphia, president of the German-American Alliance, presented memorials adopted by that organization in many states, urging the adoption of one of the resolutions.

"The principal evil growing out of the situation is the damage being done to our commerce," he said. "We should have an immediate inquiry by a special commerce commission into our trade with European countries. We should demand that our neutral trade be allowed to go without interference, and that England be not allowed to prevent us from sending articles that are of no direct use in war to Italy, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland or any other country that desires to buy our goods. Some way should be found to raise the embargo on the re-exportation of our goods from these countries to the civil population of Germany and Austria which has been opposed by England."

Allies Only Beneficiaries.

"But the first thing to be done is to prohibit the exportation of arms and ammunition. Only England and her friends can benefit by our unholy commerce in war materials. Every dollar made by a few manufacturers of war supplies is tainted with blood from the field of battle."

Horace L. Brand of Chicago, chairman of the central legislation committee of the alliance, told the committee that only by prohibiting the war exports could the United States live up to real neutrality.

Means to Solve Difficulties.

Theodore Sutro of New York urged the resolutions as a means of solving present difficulties with Great Britain over American shipping.

"Forbid the exportation of all arms and munitions of war that are contraband," he said, "and you will remove the excuse for the British conduct which called forth the note of protest recently sent to London."

Others in the delegation were: Henry Weismann, Brooklyn; Alphonse G. Koelbe, New York; Karl M. Scholtz, John Tkarka, Albert L. Fankhanel and Dr. Julius Hoffmann of Baltimore; the Rev. George Von Rosse, John B. Mayer, Adolph Timm, Joseph McLaughlin, and Francis S. Clark of Philadelphia; P. H. O'Donnell of Chicago.

Letter Written by Hexamer.

Resolutions presented by the German-American Alliance delegation included a letter written by Mr. Hexamer to President Wilson dated December 9, "in the interest of neutrality," saying that one of the nations engaged in the war "could get munitions from this country."

"Our failure in keeping strict neutrality becomes thereby," the letter continued, "an unfriendly if not inimical act against one particular nation."

Arouses German-Americans.

"You cannot imagine, Mr. President," he wrote, "with what chagrin and bitterness it fills the Americans of German descent to see the resources of this great country, which they have helped to build up, placed at the disposal of enemies who, with their overwhelming forces, have proclaimed their avowed purpose to crush our ancestral home."

"Since the attitude of our government enables England to cut off, against our own interests, even the most necessary supplies from the civil population of certain countries, do you not think, Mr. President, that thereby the assertions that the neutrality of the United States is only a matter of form and does not exist, as justified?"

ARRESTED AT KEENEYS.

Frank O'Keefe Alleged to Have Tried to Sneak Into Playhouse.

Special Officer Patrick O'Mara arrested Frank O'Keefe, aged about seventeen years, early this afternoon on a charge of trying to sneak into Keeneys theater without buying a ticket. The management at this playhouse complains that they are troubled a great deal by this sort of thing. O'Keefe was let go but ordered to be in court tomorrow morning to answer to the charges against him.

According to the management of the theater the plan of these dead beats is to have one of their gang buy a ticket and go into the theater. He then opens the fire escape and when they think no one is looking the rest of the mob sneak in.

MOB LYNCHES TWO NEGROES FOR MURDER

Victims Taken From Wetumpka Jail.

Montgomery, Ala.—Militia Arrives Too Late.

Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 4.—Two negroes, Ed and Will Smith, were taken from the Wetumpka jail early today and lynched by a mob. They had been accused of implication in the murder of E. A. Stillwell, an Elmore county farmer.

Soon after reports reached the governor's office that a mob had overpowered the jail at Wetumpka and removed the negroes, Montgomery militia were hurried to the scene in autos. However, they were too late to prevent the lynching.

Stillwell was shot several days ago while guarding his barn against thieves. Bloodhounds led directly, it was declared, to the cabin of the Smith negroes, who were arrested.

Searching parties later found the negroes hanging in the woods five miles from Wetumpka. Three supposed members of the mob are in jail at Wetumpka, but their names have not been revealed.

Governor O'Neil has ordered a special session of the Elmore county grand jury to investigate the lynchings.

Three Montgomery militia companies remained at Wetumpka throughout the day.

SAFETY BOARD MEMBER STILL TO BE SELECTED

Mayor Said to Be Meeting With Difficulty in Securing One.

Mayor Quigley is said to be meeting with considerable difficulty in locating a candidate for the vacancy in the safety board caused by the removal of Joseph R. Andrews and, it is said, a number of prominent citizens who have been asked to take the position have declined with thanks.

The difficulty in securing a successor to Mr. Andrews is due to the fact that the new commissioner may find himself entangled in the courts. If Mr. Andrews brings quo warranto proceedings it will be against the man who is appointed to succeed him and not against the mayor. Thus the new man may find himself on the defensive within a few hours after he takes office. Because of this, it is said, men who would be candidates under ordinary circumstances are not falling over each other to land the position.

Mayor Quigley was asked by reporters this morning and afternoon to name the man he had selected. He declined to do so, stating that he had appointed no one. It was stated today that the mayor would keep the new commissioner's name a secret until tonight when he would take him to the meeting of the board and introduce him as the successor of Mr. Andrews.

All interest centers on tonight's meeting. It is believed that Mr. Andrews will attend and will insist that he is still chairman of the commission. He succeeded last week in holding the fort. Mayor Quigley was out of town at that time. The mayor said today that he would be at the meeting. Mr. Andrews was asked this afternoon whether he would attend and he replied: "I have nothing to say." What action Mayor Quigley will take if Mr. Andrews insists on presiding is problematical.

HUSBAND HELD FOR MURDER OF WIFE

New York Cabaret Singer Shoots

Spouse When He Sees Her Sitting in Another Man's Lap.

New York, Jan. 4.—Mrs. Frances Collins was shot and killed early today in a bed room of her home, where she lived with her husband, William, and her two brothers. The husband is locked up, charged with murder.

Collins, who is a cabaret singer, and his wife quarreled early in the evening. When he returned home he heard her voice in an adjoining room. He went to the door, peeped through the keyhole and saw her sitting in a man's lap. Another young woman was in the room. Collins demanded admission, was refused and, it is charged, fired through the panel of the door. Mrs. Collins fell to the floor, fatally wounded.

The man in whose lap Mrs. Collins was sitting was said to be her brother, George.

STACY BECOMES MAYOR.

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 4.—Frank F. Stacy was inaugurated mayor this morning. He succeeds John A. Denison.

INAUGURATED MAYOR.

Chicopee, Mass., Jan. 4.—William J. Dunn was inaugurated as mayor today.

WEATHER.

Hartford, Jan. 4.—Generally fair tonight and Tuesday. Rising temperature.

HEARINGS ON INCREASE OF FREIGHT RATES

Proposed by Western Railroads to Begin in Chicago, February 15.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS IN CHARGE

Baroness Requested Aggregate As

Much As 30 Per Cent and Are Based Upon Traffic Conditions and Movement of Individual Classes.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Public hearings on freight rate increases proposed by railroads west of the Mississippi river will begin in Chicago Feb. 15 and will be conducted by Interstate Commerce Commissioner Daniels.

The hearings will make the beginning in public of an important rate case, essentially different from the recent eastern case, in that the western roads are not asking for a horizontal increase in all rates, but an increase based upon traffic conditions and upon the movement of individual classes and commodities.

As Much As 30 Per Cent.

Some of the advances proposed aggregate as much as thirty per cent, while others amount to only two or three per cent. On some kinds of traffic no increases have been proposed. It is understood the western roads have endeavored to revise their rates so as not to bear too hard on the general shipper.

All the tariffs submitted by the western roads have been suspended by the commission. Protests, particularly from the railroad commissions of the western states, have been filed with the commission, and concerted action by the state commissions will be taken in opposition to the increase.

Evidence from Respondents.

It was announced today that Feb. 15, 16, 17 and 18 would be devoted to the presentation of evidence from respondents supporting in general their claims for increased rates, but not including evidence in support of increases of particular rates. Beginning Monday, March 15, opportunity will be given for the presentation of evidence in rebuttal of such general testimony.

Certain specified dates are allotted for the presentation of evidence in justification of proposed increased rates on particular commodities. In a statement the commission says:

Additional Dates.

"If the time allotted for the consideration of evidence affecting these particular rates does not suffice for that purpose, it may be possible to arrange additional dates, but any such additional hearings will be scheduled for dates after March 18."

The assignment of the case to Commissioner Daniels was made in the regular way followed generally by the commission. Commissioner Daniels, in the usual drawing among the seven commissioners for cases pending on the docket, drew the western rate case, as a part of his apportionment of the proceedings pending.

GARDNER ARRAIGNS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Representative Says Combined Force

of U. S. Regulars and Militia Would Form Battle Line 65 Miles Long.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Representative Gardner, urging his proposal to investigate the military preparedness of the nation, told the house military committee today that the "entire field army, militia, regulars and all, of the United States today owns 'little more than half of the number of guns Russian had at the Battle of Mukden.'"

Mr. Gardner had a series of lively passages with members of the committee, which he arraigned for not summoning Major Generals Wood and Crozier to get their views on preparedness. He quoted figures at length to show that the combined force of regulars and national guardsmen would form a battle line 65 miles long, two-thirds of the way around Greater New York, and that, compared with European nations, the equipment of field guns of the United States army was negligible.

Mr. Gardner said he understood a confidential report at the war department from one of the observers in Europe said some of the French field guns shot away 500 to 600 rounds in a day. Eight American field guns, he said, could shoot away ammunition as fast as government arsenals could make it. Secretary Garrison, he said, had directed army officers not to volunteer statements, and that he doubtless was acting in sympathy with "The White House Ideas."

PLEAD NOT GUILTY.

Malden, Mass., Jan. 4.—Ignazio Morelli, of Wakefield, pleaded not guilty today to the charge of murdering Maurice A. Albertson, a Lawrence jewelry salesman, whose body was found in the cellar of a house in Wakefield, December 23. Luigi Grassadonio pleaded not guilty of being an accessory before the fact. Both men were held for a hearing January 11.

SECOND VICTIM OF TRIPLE POISONING

John Rogers, Aged Two, Died at New

York Today—Mother's Death Is Momentarily Expected.

New York, Jan. 4.—The slow poison administered six days ago by Mrs. Ida Rogers to her two babies and herself resulted today in the death of the older child, John, aged two, Florida, eight months old, died last Wednesday. The mother's death was expected.

Lorlys Elton Rogers, the lawyer who was known as the woman's husband to the neighborhood in the Bronx where they lived, still kept his vigil at the sick woman's bedside. He had no comment to make; nor did Mrs. Annie Roquemore Rogers, who divorced Rogers in 1909, nor Mrs. Caroline Giddings Rogers, who married Rogers in 1909 and lived with him till last October on Riverside drive.

District Attorney Martin of the Bronx awaited today the arrival at his office of a man who promised yesterday by telephone to reveal much that is unknown as to the identity of the dying woman. She has steadfastly refused to tell of her former life. Her family physician is authority for the statement that she comes of a good family in the south and has two brothers high in the government's employ.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE REOPENS FOR BUSINESS

Severe Restrictions Placed Upon Trading to Prevent Panic Selling.

London, Jan. 4, 12:05 p. m.—The London Stock Exchange reopened for business today after having been closed on account of war since July 30. Severe restrictions were placed upon trading in order to prevent anything approaching panic selling or the unloading of securities by hostile countries.

The session was opened with a round of ringing cheers and to the strains of the national anthem, heartily sung by a rather smaller attendance than usual. There were absent on account of the war a number of German and French members, while the exclusion of aliens who were not able to satisfy the committee that they had severed all connection with foreign countries reduced somewhat the foreign attendance.

The single fact that business has been resumed even on a limited scale and under restrictions is taken to indicate that the greatest crisis in the history of the exchange has been safely negotiated through the combined efforts of the treasury and the stock exchange committee.

The house had been redecorated during the prolonged recess and today it presented quite a cheerful appearance. Several English members appeared in khaki. There was no shouting of bids across the house and business was on a strictly cash basis. The committee decided to allow dealings only between the hours of eleven and three, inside or outside the Stock Exchange, and, with arbitrage business banned there will be no street dealings in American securities at the present time.

The general opinion that the restrictions to trading would curtail business to a considerable extent was borne out during the first half hour. Not a single bargain occurred in Americans, and only a few of these securities appeared. The war loan was marked at 94 5-8 and then at 94 9-16. India 3 1-2 per cent were quoted at 83 1-8 and Rio Tinto nominally at 87. Union Pacifics were 119, and consols 68 1-2.

COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED.

Hungerford and Danberg to Hear Claims Against McGuire Estate.

At a hearing before Judge B. F. Gaffney in the court of probate this morning at 11 o'clock Judge F. B. Hungerford and Attorney E. J. Danberg were appointed commissioners to hear claims against the estate of Patrick McGuire, the mayor of Hartford avenue. These commissioners were satisfactory to all those interested.

Attorney H. P. Roche was present to represent Judge James T. Meskill, counsel for Patrick H. McGuire, administrator of the estate. Attorney P. F. McDonough represented the children of the late William McGuire, son of Patrick McGuire. Judge William F. Mangan represented Mrs. William Thompson, who worked in McGuire's store and says he promised to give her a house at his death in lieu of wages. Attorney B. W. Alling represented Jacob Sperry, the New Britain Charcoal company and Andrews, Swift & Co. Judge J. H. Kirham was present for Morris Schupack and Louis Edelson. Attorney A. W. Upson represented the New England Biscuit company of Boston. No date for the first hearing has been assigned.

WOODS TAKES OFFICE.

Holyoke, Mass., Jan. 4.—John J. Woods, re-elected, was inaugurated as mayor of Holyoke today.

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